

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

connecting the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

receiving call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information;

providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device;

receiving at least one response from the one or more conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call;

establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the accepting conference users based on the at least one received response; and

establishing a collaboration to share second data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the second data being shared interactively during the conference call.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises:

scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application associated with the initiating user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users comprises:

collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and

collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure based on the conference user identifiers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application and the second data structure comprises an address book listing at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating contact with the conference users comprises:

collecting contact information associated with the conference users; and
attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and attempting to establish a communication connection comprises:

dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device comprises:

sending the notification, presenting the first conference user with an option for accepting or declining the computer enhanced call.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a conference call comprises:

connecting calls to devices of conference users based on the at least one response received from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein connecting comprises:

bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and

providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call by at least one of:

receiving a communication declining the call without any further processing by the conference user declining the request;

receiving a communication from the conference user declining the call to set an alternate contact telephone number; and

receiving a communication from the conference user declining the call to set a period of time in which the conference user declining the request is to be contacted again.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein establishing a collaboration comprises:

determining whether conference users that accept the computer-enhanced conference call are authorized to participate in the collaboration; and

launching collaboration software corresponding to the initiating user and authorized conference users so that the initiating users and authorized conference users may participate in the collaboration.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining a preferred device comprises:

retrieving call preference information corresponding to the first conference user based on the call information; and

selecting the preferred device for the first conference user based on the retrieved call preference information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

connecting the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

receiving call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information identifying a first device and a second device associated with the first conference user, the calendar information reflecting that the first device is preferred by the first conference user for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a first time period and the second device is preferred for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a second time period;

bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response to establish a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to the first conference user at the preferred device; and

establishing a collaboration to share the data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively by the first user during the conference call.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises:

scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application associated with the initiating user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users includes:

collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and
collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure based on the conference user identifiers.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application and the second data structure comprises an address book listing at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein initiating contact with the conference users comprises:

collecting contact information associated with the conference users; and
attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and attempting to establish a communication connection comprises:

dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

sending notifications of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the conference users.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call request by at least one of:

receiving a communication from the conference user declining the request to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user;

receiving a communication declining the request without any further processing by the conference user declining the request; and

receiving a communication from the conference user declining the request to set a period of time in which the conference user declining the request is to be contacted again.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein establishing a collaboration comprises:

determining whether conference users that accept the computer-enhanced conference call request are authorized to participate in the collaboration; and

launching collaboration software corresponding to the initiating user and authorized conference users so that the initiating users and authorized conference users may participate in the collaboration.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the sending comprises:

retrieving data corresponding to the conference users;
selecting devices associated with the conference users to receive the notification based on the retrieved data; and
providing the notification to the selected devices for display on the selected devices.

29. (Original) The method of claim 17, comprising receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call, comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of conference users, including an initiating user, that was setup by the initiating user;

connecting a call with the plurality of conference users at a device associated with each of the plurality of conference users, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with each of the plurality of conference users;

receiving call information for each of the plurality of conference users in response to the interception of the call;

determining a preferred device for each of the plurality of conference users based on the call information;

sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to ~~[[a]]~~ the preferred device associated with one of the plurality of conference users;

receiving a response to the notification;

establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the response; and

establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration based on the response, the collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, including an initiating user, comprising:

means for detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by the initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

means for initiating contact with conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

means for connecting the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

means for receiving call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

means for determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information;

means for providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device;

means for receiving at least one response from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call;

means for establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response; and

means for establishing a collaboration to share second data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the second data being shared interactively during the conference call.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises:

means for scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application associated with the initiating user.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and means for identifying conference users comprises:

means for collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and

means for collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure based on the conference user identifiers.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application and the second data structure comprises an address book listing at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for initiating contact with the conference users comprises:

means for collecting contact information associated with the conference users;
and

means for attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and the means for attempting to establish a communication connection comprises:

means for dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device comprises:

means for sending the notification, presenting the first conference user with an option for accepting or declining the computer enhanced call.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for establishing a conference call comprises:

means for connecting calls to devices of conference users based on the at least one response received from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the means for connecting comprises:

means for bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and

means for providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein conference users that decline the computer-enhanced conference call request may decline the call by selecting at least one of:

declining the call without any further processing by the conference user declining the call;

allowing the conference user declining the call to set an alternate contact telephone number; and

allowing the conference user declining the call to set a period of time in which the conference user declining the call is to be contacted again.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the means for establishing a collaboration comprises:

means for determining whether conference users that accept the computer-enhanced conference call are authorized to participate in the collaboration; and

means for launching collaboration software corresponding to the initiating user and authorized conference users so that the initiating users and authorized conference users may participate in the collaboration.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for determining a preferred device comprises:

means for retrieving call preference information corresponding to the first conference user based on the call information; and

means for selecting a preferred device for the first conference user based on the retrieved call preference information.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, comprising means for receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration.

47. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

means for detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

means for initiating contact with conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

means for connecting the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

means for receiving call information in response to the interception of the call
~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

means for determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information identifying a first device and a second device associated with the first conference user, the calendar information reflecting that the first device is preferred by the first conference user for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a first time period and the second device is preferred for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a second time period;

means for bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response to establish a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to the first conference user at the preferred device; and

means for establishing a collaboration to share the data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively by the first user during the conference call.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the means for detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises:

means for scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application associated with the initiating user.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and means for identifying conference users includes:

means for collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and

means for collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure based on the conference user identifiers.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application and the second data structure comprises an address book listing at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the means for initiating contact with the conference users comprises:

means for collecting contact information associated with the conference users;
and

means for attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and the means for attempting to establish a communication connection comprises:

means for dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising:
means for sending notifications of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the conference users.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein conference users that decline the computer-enhanced conference call request may decline the request by selecting at least one of:

allowing the conference user declining the request to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user;

declining the request without any further processing by the conference user declining the request; and

allowing the conference user declining the request to set a period of time in which the conference user declining the request is to be contacted again.

57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the means for establishing a collaboration comprises:

means for determining whether conference users that accept the computer-enhanced conference call request are authorized to participate in the collaboration; and

means for launching collaboration software corresponding to the initiating user and authorized conference users so that the initiating users and authorized conference users may participate in the collaboration.

58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the means for sending comprises:

means for retrieving data corresponding to the conference users;

means for selecting devices associated with the conference users to receive the notification based on the retrieved data; and

means for providing the notification to the selected devices for display on the selected devices.

59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47, comprising means for receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration.

60. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call, comprising:

means for receiving information pertaining to a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of conference users, including an initiating user, that was setup by the initiating user;

means for connecting a call with the plurality of conference users at a device associated with each of the plurality of conference users, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with each of the plurality of conference users;

means for receiving call information for each of the plurality of conference users in response to the interception of the call;

means for determining a preferred device for each of the plurality of conference users based on the call information;

means for sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to [[a]] the preferred device associated with one of the plurality of conference users;

means for receiving a response to the notification;

means for establishing a conference call between the initiating user and conference users based on the response; and

means for establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration based on the response, the collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, the method comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

initiating contact with conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with the first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

connected the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

receiving call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information;

providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device;

receiving at least one response from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call;

establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the accepting conference users based on the at least one received response; and

establishing a collaboration to share second data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the second data being shared interactively during the conference call.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, the method comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

initiating contact with conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call ~~contact~~ with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

connecting the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

receiving call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with the first conference user;~~

determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information identifying a first device and a second device associated with a first conference user, the calendar information reflecting that the first device is preferred by the first conference user for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a first time period and the second device is preferred for sharing data interactively in computer-enhanced conference calls during a second time period;

bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response to establish a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to the first conference user at the preferred device based on the determination that the computer-enhanced conference call falls within the first time period; and

establishing a collaboration to share the data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the

collaboration, the data being shared interactively by the first user during the conference call.

63. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call, the method comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of conference users, including an initiating user, that was setup by the initiating user;

connecting a call with the plurality of conference users at a device associated with each of the plurality of conference users, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with each of the plurality of conference users;

receiving call information for each of the plurality of conference users in response to the interception of the call;

determining a preferred device for each of the plurality of conference users based on the call information;

sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to [[a]] the preferred device associated with one of the plurality of conference users;

receiving a response to the notification;

establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the plurality of conference users based on the response; and

establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration based on the response, the

collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call.

64-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

a first server operable to detect a computer-enhanced conference call event that was configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future;

a second server operable to initiate contact with conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating a call with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user;

a third server operable to connect the call, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with the first conference user;

a fourth server ~~third service~~ operable to receive call information in response to the interception of the call ~~initiating contact with conference users;~~ and

a conference bridge operable to bridge calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on responses from the conference users,

wherein:

a collaboration is established to share data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration;

one of the calls is bridged to ~~[[a]]~~ the first ~~conference user~~ one of the conference users at a preferred device for the first conference user; and

the preferred device for the first conference user is determined based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information reflecting that the computer-enhanced conference call occurs during a time period when the first user prefers to use the preferred device to share the data interactively during the computer-enhanced conference call.

68. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event set up by an initiating user;
connecting a call with ~~contacting~~ conference users ~~associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event~~ at a device associated with each of the conference users, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with each of the conference users;

receiving call information for each of the conference users in response to the interception of the call;

determining a preferred device for each of the conference users based on the call information;

sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the preferred device associated with one of the conference users;

receiving at least one response from the conference users;

establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response; and

establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call.

69. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising:

detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event set up by an initiating user;

connecting a call with contacting conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event at a device associated with each of the conference users, wherein the call is intercepted before being connected to the device associated with each of the plurality of conference users;

receiving call information for each of the conference users in response to the interception of the call;

determining a preferred device for each of the conference users based on the call information;

sending a notification of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the preferred device associated with one of the conference users;

receiving at least one response from the conference users;

bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response, ~~wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users; and~~

establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the collaboration excluding at least one unauthorized conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the computer-enhanced conference call.